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p. 5

# The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Dylan Cink and Taylor Setzer

November 18, 2011

## The teaching and life Buena Vista art of Pete Waltz workshops

Katie Riley

Pete Waltz was born on December 13, 1972, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Waltz grew up in Red Oak, Iowa, and attended Simpson College to receive his bachelor's degree in teaching. He also went to Northwest Missouri State University for middle school education.

He wanted to become a teacher because he enjoys working with young people and seeing people enjoy learning. Another reason is because he enjoyed his schooling growing up in Red Oak and wanted to impact youth as his teachers impacted him.

Waltz is married to Holly Waltz, who is a math teacher at Algona Middle School. He is a proud father of two children. He has a seven year old son named Harrison and a daughter, who is four years old, named Emerson. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, reading, bicycling, participating in RAGBRAI, and also spending as much time as possible with his family. Waltz's favorite quote is, "It seems the harder I work, the luckier I get."

Waltz teaches at Algona High School and Algona Middle School. He teaches eighth grade science and environmental science. Waltz has been teaching in this school district for eleven years and has been teaching for a total of fourteen years. Before Algona, he taught in Maryville, Missouri, and Red Oak, Iowa.

Waltz's most memorable moment of teaching was when he received the "Outstanding Beginning Teacher" award for the state of Missouri. His favorite thing about being a teacher is being around awesome students and colleagues and how everyday is a different day.

Student teacher, Mrs. Rasmussen, said, "Pete is very energetic and has a great ability to help the students learn." Everyone should be sure to say "hey" the next time that you see Waltz somewhere around the high school or middle school.

Janet Hofmann

On November 14th, five students traveled to Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.

These five students: Mikayla Torpy, Katlyn Loeschen, Weston Armstrong, Taylor Setzer, and Briana Meyerink, along with Mr. Yi, attended art workshops at the university.

The workshops included drawing, print-making, encaustic painting, and

graphic design. All were run by Buena Vista art students. The trip was geared towards high school seniors interested in pursuing a career as an artist. After the workshops were finished, students were encouraged to tour the school.

Katlyn Loeschen said that it was an "exciting, fun-filled day with Mr. Yi; we made some crazy art!"

## HR vs. HR

Colbi Culpepper

Homeroom competitions started at AHS on November 14. The days of the competitions for this month were Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, skipping Wednesday because of the early out.

The games this time around consisted of knock-out, Mad Gab, Taboo, and quiz bowl. Other weeks throughout the year, other events will be held. Topics for future days include movies, Xbox, cooking, and many more activities for all students to enjoy.

Many of the students and teachers are really enjoying the competitions. All the grades competed with one another. The competitions will be one week, every month. "Too bad seniors are left out," says Nikki Salvatore.



## Senior Spotlight

Kuleen Parsons

This week's senior spotlight is Alex Smith. He was born on October 10, 1993, in Hawarden, Iowa. He moved to Algona when he was only one and has gone to Algona his whole life. His parents are Amy and Rick Smith. He has two younger sisters, Abby and Teagan.

Alex enjoys having open campus and being a senior. His favorite school activity is Superstars. He has played football since middle school. Alex said, "My favorite class is environmen-

tal science because of Mr. Waltz."

Alex's hobbies include racing, hunting, sports, and riding horses. Alex works at Terry's Welding and Repair and his favorite part about his job is that he gets to work hands on.

Next time you see Alex in the hall, give him a high five.



## Speech season is here!!!

MaKayla Metzger

This year the AHS varsity and freshmen speech teams have over 130 people signed up for large group contest. There are 11 different categories to choose from. The categories are Readers Theater, Choral Reading, Musical Theater, One-Act Play, Ensemble Acting, Improvisation, Group Mime, Individual Mime, Short Films, Radio Broadcasting, and Television Newscasting. The coaches are Mrs. Hard-Lahndorf and Steve Cox.

Algona will be hosting District large group contest on January 21, 2011. State large group contest

will be on February 4, 2012, and will be held in Spencer.

Last year Algona High had 17 groups make it to State. Eleven of those groups received straight Division I's for their ratings. Also, the Readers Theater group made it to All-State last year. They are hoping to step it up a notch this year.

Courtney Schmitt says, "It's a lot of fun. More people should go out for it."

For more information on speech see Ms. Elle or check out: <http://sites.google.com/site/ahstheatreandspeech/>

## Dancing to the top

Megan Crosser

On Saturday, November 5th, two girls from AHS traveled to Pella, Iowa, to compete in the State individual dance competition. Amanda Bernhard and Jenna Thul chose to represent AHS. Amanda performed a lyrical dance to "Fast Car," and Jenna performed a jazz dance to "Gotcha."

To earn a Division I, you must score a 60 or better. Scores were very close and many were ties. Amanda and Jenna competed against 78 other girls in class 3. Both AHS girls received a Divi-

sion I. Jenna also received 12th place.

The AHS drill team is also getting ready to perform as a team on December 1st and 2nd. They are performing a jazz and kick routine. These girls have been working before and after school to perfect their routines and get ready for competition. Jenna Thul says, "We've been working really hard over the last two months and we're excited." Wish the team good luck as they travel to Des Moines to represent AHS!



Above: Amanda Bernard and Jenna Thul pose at State individual competition.



Above: The flash mob gets going!! On Thursday, November 17th, a flash mob of students in contemporary literature, leadership, and sociology did a flash mob to raise awareness of bullying. There is also a poster in the commons to sign.

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## NBA becomes NSA NFL runs wild

(No Season Apparent)

Mike Vandy

The NBA season is looking bleak as a lockout has halted all playing on courts. The season was set to begin on November 1st. The league has cancelled all games through the 30th of November.

Commissioner David Stern has gone on the record for not wanting to give players the deal they are looking for. However, recently the league owners wanted to give the players a 50-50 split of all annual revenue and a 72 game season starting in December.

This week the players decided to reject the owners' offer, which would have saved an already horrible season. In terms of the players' side, they called

for 54.3% of all basketball revenue while the owners wanted the share, which originally started at 57%, to drop down even further. The players don't agree with this, hence the rejection.

The next step for the players is to file an anti-trust suit. By doing this, tensions now are on the rise. As David Stern has said in reports, "The players have rejected a deal that would have given them a major pay-day."

The fans are the major people being affected by this, as now league play is looking to be far from happening. Aaron Bixby is quoted as saying, "What's NBA?"

Bronson Jergenson

This year in the NFL there were some fast starts and from teams that are not used to seeing a winning record at the beginning of the season. A few of the teams who started fast were the Lions, the Green Bay Packers, and the Bills

The Bills as a team have yet to be a real threat in their division, but this year they are 5-3 and off to a great start. Leading their offense is Fred Jackson. After eight games, Jackson has over 800 yards and also has six touchdowns. Jackson is one of the top five leading rushers in the league.

The Lions had a great first five games. They started the season with a 5-0 start but have recently started to fall back into their old ways, losing their last two

games. Leading the offensive attack for the Lions is wide receiver, Calvin Johnson. Johnson has 11 receiving touchdowns and 47 receptions.

Last year's world champions were the Green Bay Packers. Right now they are on an 8-0 start and looking to become back to back champions. Leading the way for the Packers is their quarterback, Aaron Rodgers. This year he already has 24 touchdowns and 2,619 yards passing.

Week 11 has a lot of great match ups to watch starting with this Thursday, the Jets play the Broncos. Also coming up on Monday Night Football is the Kansas City Chiefs playing the New England Patriots.

## Coach's Corner

Jessica Mueller

This week's Coach's Corner highlight is Mr. Ahlers. Mr. Ahlers teaches geometry, survey of geometry, and sometimes career math at AHS.

His favorite memory of coaching is winning the Boys' State Championship in 2008. His goal for next year's cross country season, for the girls and boys, is to improve and move up in the Conference. He would also love to see them qualify for State.

Mr. Ahlers' first coaching job was in college; he coached the ninth grade basketball and baseball teams in Indianola. Ahlers has coached as the assistant track coach in Boyer Valley, where he taught for his first two years. After the two

years of coaching and teaching at Boyer Valley, he came to Algona High School.

Ahlers has been helping with cross country for 15 years at AHS. He has been the head of cross country for 11 years. He has also coached basketball, baseball, and track at AHS. Tiffany Long said, "He's a good teacher and coach."



## Customize yourself

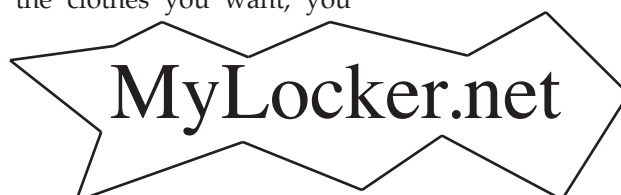
Scott Haas

Tired of the same boring team shirts? If you are, there is a website where you can customize your own Bulldog apparel.

MyLocker.net is the website you go to where you can make custom Bulldog clothing. You have your choice from pants to shirts and almost anything in between. Your clothes can be customized with school teams, names, and even numbers. If you have all of the clothes you want, you

can make your own duffel bag with the same features to take with you to your events.

Prices range from seven dollars up to 50 dollars, it all depends on what you get and how you customize it. This is all paid online through a credit or debit card. With each purchase from this website, the Algona Booster Club gets 12%. Show your Bulldog spirit and get a new shirt today.





## Best price

Tashia Lemus

Black Friday is on November 25. Black Friday is a popular label connected to the Friday following Thanksgiving Day. This day marks the beginning of the busy shopping season, during which most consumers typically start their Christmas/holiday shopping.

The word "black" often has a negative meaning. The use of black in this case refers to profitability, which is traditionally noted in black ink (losses are noted in red).

Amazon has posted

## Turkey Day!

Emily McFarland

Thanksgiving, a time to get together with friends and family, is less than two weeks away. On November 23, Algona schools will have a 2:30 early out. Also remember, that day is Novemberfest at AHS. Wednesday is the beginning of a four day weekend.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. The Pilgrims did not call this harvest festival a "Thanksgiving," although they did give thanks to God. To them, a day of Thanksgiving was purely religious. The first recorded religious day of Thanksgiving was held in 1623 in response to a fortunate rainfall. To this day, Thanksgiving is celebrated among millions as a time to give your thanks and be

an ad on November 14 that states the following: buy one get one 50% off video games. The following video games are included in this deal: *MW3*, *Elder Scrolls V:Skyrim*, *Rage*, *Uncharted 3:Drakes Deception*, *Batman Arkham City*, *Just Dance 3* and *LEGO Harry Potter: Years 5-7*. This deal starts on Black Friday.

Macy's posted their ads on November 14. Their ads are active from midnight to 1pm on Black Friday. Some of their offers are: \$10 off your purchases of \$25 (or more) on ALL sale and clar-

thankful for all the blessings in your life.

In New York, the 85th annual Macy's parade is going to start at 9:00 AM. More than 3.5 million people attend this parade.

Many people do different things for Thanksgiving and go different places. "Family is coming over for Thanksgiving and I also have to work," says Lacey Durant. "I'm eating a big meal with family and preparing for Christmas," says Jeremy Black.

Thanksgiving is also about what you are thankful for. "I'm thankful for my friends, family, pets, and food," says Natasha Hodson. "I'm thankful for my friends, family, education, my house, and my food," says Gaby Gonzalez.

Thanksgiving is getting close, so where are you going and what are you thankful for?

ance apparel. Extra 15% off select sale and clearance apparel. Assorted kitchen appliances \$9.99 (after rebate). Pyrex 14-piece bakeware set-\$19.99. Serta Perfect Sleeper Firm Queen 2-pc mattress set-\$249.

Some of Best Buy's deals are: Sharp 42" 1880p LCD HDTV- \$199.99. Dynex 24" 1080p 60Hz LCD HDTV- \$179.99. Lenovo 15.6" Laptop with 2GB RAM and 250GB HDD- \$179.99. Kodak playful 1080p HD camcorder- \$69.99. Toshiba wi-fi ready/Netflix streaming blu-ray

player- \$9.99. Plus many assorted Blu-ray titles.

Some of the other stores that are having great deals on Black Friday are Sears (4am to 1pm), Shopko (midnight to noon), Lowe's (5am on), and Walmart (12am on).

Black Friday is a great way to get out with the family and get some great deals. Don't forget to get your Christmas presents while you're out!

## OPUS Honor Choir

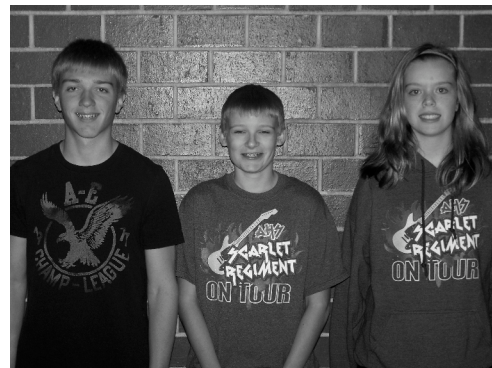
Mr. Kelley

Algona High School freshmen musicians, Dayne Meyerink, Maddie Roach, and Nathan Stumme, were recently selected for participation in the twenty-sixth annual Opus Honor Choir Festival. Over 3,400 students were nominated by their directors for 720 positions in the four Opus Honor Choirs. Selections were made by means of a recorded audition.

Guest conductors of the choirs include Sheila Monson, 5th & 6th Grade Elementary Honor Choir;

Steve Woodin, 7th & 8th Grade Boys Honor Choir; Kay Fast, 7th & 8th Grade Girls Honor Choir; and Dr. Lee Nelson, 9th Grade Mixed Honor Choir.

The 2011 Opus Honor Choirs performed at 4 p.m. November 17 in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium in the Iowa State Center in Ames. The Opus Honor Choir Festival is under the auspices of the Iowa Choral Directors Association, Inc. Other AHS freshmen musicians who auditioned were Rileigh McElroy and Jason Schutter.



Left: OPUS singers Dayne Meyerink, Maddie Roach, and Nathan Stumme pose for a picture.

## Pulling together

Sawyer Brandt

On Thursday, November 10th, AHS's student senate, as well as the leadership class, put on a bake sale for Wichtendahl family. Michael is a 2010 graduate of AHS and son of Mrs. Wichtendahl, Spanish teacher at AHS.

The Wichtendahl family has been going through difficult times. Their family shop, full of painting supplies (Mr. Wichtendahl's business), musical equipment, and family memorabilia burnt down. Just weeks later, their son Michael was injured.

Michael was in a car accident that occurred early on the morning of Friday, November 4th. He was heading southbound on Highway 9 when he went over the center line and into the other lane. He then slid into the ditch and hit 430th Avenue. His car proceeded to get thrown over the intersection as it rolled twice.

Michael is currently at Avera Holy Family Hospital with disabling injuries.

The student population of AHS, as well as the staff, did a very good job as a whole, raising \$1101 for the Wichtendahl family through the sales of bakery items as well as donations to the family. The bake sale included items such as brownies, caramel popcorn, and puppy chow, all varying in price.

Students involved in student senate and leadership class took money and managed the sales throughout the day. Senior Jacob Lampman said that the bake sale "was a great way for the community to chip in and help someone in a time of need."

There is a Caring Bridge website set up with updates on Michael's condition.: <https://www.caring-bridge.org/visit/michael-wichtendahl/createorsignin>

## Livin' the good life at AHS

Nick Bitz

Ah, the yearbook. That great book that summarizes the entire year. It reminds you of all the friends you made and the good times you had. For some it is the best book they will read the entire year. For others, it's the only book they'll read.

The yearbook is completed by Mrs. Spear's Journalism II class. The Journalism I class has decided that this year's theme will be *Livin' the Good Life*. The senior class picture will be taken on the football practice field sometime after Thanks-

giving break, during home-room.

All seniors need to bring a lawn chair, and if they wish, one thing that signifies the "Good Life" to them. Keep it school appropriate! The picture will be taken by Ms. Spear and will appear in the front and back covers of the yearbook.

It is still not too late to order a yearbook. Yearbooks are \$50 and can be ordered until April 1st. Stop in and see Mr. Spear to see if you've ordered one or to place an order.

## Fruit, cheese, and sausage sales

A.J. Wagner

Recently, the Algona FFA students sold fruit, cheese, and sausage. The students sold \$21,912 worth of products.

There was a competition for who could sell the most. The average sales per person for the freshman class was \$419.79. The juniors had an average of \$369.36 per person. The sophomores' average was \$271.24. The seniors' per person average was \$140.56.

Amanda Anderson was the freshman who sold

the most; she sold around \$1,300.00. In second place was Lexi Smidt, and in third was Kyle Stecker. The awards for selling the most is a steak supper with all the fillings.

If you ordered some fruit, cheese, or sausage, the Algona FFA Chapter wants to thank you for your support. Brandon Pearson said, "I'm excited to get my clementines." The products will be arriving after Thanksgiving break.



Above: Alissa Zwiefel sells items to Tawny Schultz, Brandee Hockett, and Gavin Meyer at the Wichtendahl bake sale.

# Editorials

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## Ridiculousness

Jeremy Black

Do you ever sit at home and want to watch some funny videos of others' misery but just don't know what to look up? Well, Rob Dyrdek host's a great show on MTV called *Ridiculousness*. On the show he has gone on the Internet and took the time to find funny videos. He shares these on his TV show. Dyrdek takes the funniest amateur Internet videos and builds them into an episode of pure laughter.

Dyrdek is not alone on the show. He has Sterling "Steelo" Brim in control of the remote control. It's "Steelo's" job to rewind the videos and put them in slow motion to make them even funnier. "Rob Dyrdek's *Ridiculousness* is so ridiculously AWESOME!" stated

Amanda Bernhard excitedly.

Dyrdek also has Chanel West Coast, the rapping receptionist from the Fantasy Factory. She is the stereotypical "blonde". On the show, he also has celebrity guests with him, such as: Johnny Knoxville, Travis Pastrana, Christopher "Big Black" Boykin, and many more!

If you haven't caught the show yet, they are renewing it for season two, so watch it! The new season's first episode was on Monday, November 14th. "*Ridiculousness* brings the best of the internet to MTV, taking the video clip show to the next level," says MTV.com

## MW3

Scott Haas

The most anticipated game of the year is finally out. *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3* was released on the 8th of November and 9.3 million people went out and bought the game.

The game features the same online game play and a new story mode, but it also features many new weapons and maps. You also have the ability to customize your kill streak rewards in new ways. You now have three different lists and each list has a different type of kill streak, from the original *Modern Warfare 2* type of kill streaks to calling in bullet-proof vests for your team. Don't worry, even with the changes, the game tried to stay as similar as MW2, with quick-scoping back in online mode and the unlocking of

weapons with leveling up.

*Modern Warfare 3* promises to be another success. When asked about the game, senior Dan Haack said, "I have yet to find a flaw in the game."

The online mode features 16 new maps from a shopping mall to a forested village. It also features a new twist to weapon upgrades, your weapons now have levels that you upgrade to unlock attachments and camo. There are also new ways to play online. There is a game called Kill Confirmed; in this mode, after you shoot down your enemy, you have to go get his dog tags to count it towards your victory.

It is a fun game to have, but it is rated Mature, so you have to be 17 to get it.

## Jack and Jill

Rachel Feuring

Adam Sandler premieres his new comedy *Jack and Jill*. Adam Sandler stars as both Jack Sadelstein and Jill Sadelstein, twins from New York. Jack moves to California and starts a family and begins his new, relaxed life, creating his advertising company without his passive aggressive sister. When the holidays near, Jack's sister, Jill, comes to visit.

Jill meets Al Pacino, who becomes completely obsessed with her, Jack needs Pacino in his new ad to make business. Needing his sister, Jill stays for a little

longer than planned. All in all, Jack learns his lesson and loves Jill for who she is.

Adam Sandler is quite the character in this movie and is a riot to watch. Stars include: Adam Sandler, Al Pacino, Katie Holmes, Johnny Depp, and Shaquille O'Neal. Kelsey Crosser says, "I can't wait to see it!" Bring your family, bring your friends, and watch for this PG comedy in theaters now!

## Not enough parking

Celeste Smith

You woke up late, might be late to school, you're speeding down McGregor, pull into the parking lot, and there is nowhere to park! You frantically drive around, hoping there is a spot open when sometimes there is and sometimes there isn't. Too many people at Algona High School have had this problem.

The current parking situation at Algona High School is not the best fit for our school. We have 211 parking spots, including the big north lot and northeast smaller lot. We currently have 267 registered drivers, 68 are sophomores and they are allowed to park in the

last four rows of the northeast lot. That leaves approximately 155 parking spots for 199 registered juniors and seniors.

This problem could be fixed by sophomores parking in the freshman lot. It could also be solved by stricter ticketing to ensure sophomores are parking only in the last four rows of the northeast lot. Morgan Goche says, "I wish we knew why it seems like there is no parking. I just want the problem to be fixed."